

OFFICE ORTHOPEDICS. By Lewis Cozen, M.D., F.A.C.S., Attending Orthopedic Staff, Veterans Hospital, Los Angeles County Hospital; Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, College of Medical Evangelists. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$5.00.

This small volume describes a series of office procedures that the author believes indicated in the conduct of an orthopedic practice. He gives instructions relating to plaster of paris technique, to physical therapy, local anesthesia and the fitting of prostheses. A section is devoted to the disabilities commonly encountered in each part of each extremity. Another section includes a discussion of pathologic entities that cause pain or disability in various regions of the back, neck, extremities and jaws, with brief notes about treatment.

The individual specialist in orthopedic surgery will doubtless disagree with a number of ideas bearing on etiology and specific forms of treatment. This is to be expected because a consideration of this subject of office orthopedics must include a certain amount of treatment that is empirical. At times in the book, however, treatment is directed against pathology not generally accepted as etiologic. For instance, a paragraph is devoted to subdeltoid bursitis and also to radiohumeral bursitis, when many doubt that the basic pathology behind the complaints so named is really primarily bursitis.

In spite of its limitations, the book is worthwhile, because it deals with a field not well covered elsewhere in a small volume. Strikingly helpful are a good series of line drawings that explain special orthopedic exercises and tests, that portray special splints and braces as well as useful pieces of apparatus, and that illustrate particular techniques in orthopedic therapy.

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THE CYTOLOGY AND LIFE-HISTORY OF BACTERIA. By K. A. Bisset, Ph.D., Lecturer in Bacteriology, University of Birmingham. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$3.50.

Thoughtful biologists and bacteriologists must have been aware for a long time that the techniques used in preparing the bacterial cell for microscopic examination by heat fixation and staining would have led to striking distortion in the appearance of microorganisms and would have obscured their true structure. That this is the case has been clearly shown by Bisset, who presents a summary of his work over a period of several years in this monograph. His beautiful microphotographs, showing the intimate cellular structure of bacteria stained by his special methods, are fascinating. For example, the gonococcus proves to be not the diplococcus of traditional bacteriology but a multicelled organism in which the processes of routine staining have caused the protoplasm to shrink away from the cell wall, thus forming two apparent cocci. The diphtheria and tubercle bacilli prove to be multicellular, nucleated organisms appearing not very different from any other plant. The author also presents a good deal of information in regard to chromosome behavior in bacteria and describes sexual and asexual stages of multiplication. The latter were to have been expected from the rapid development in the field of bacterial genetics and mutation, which has been so profitably explored within the last few years.

Finally, the author makes a plea for the simplification of bacteriological taxonomy on the basis of morphology as defined by these more refined techniques. His suggestions seem quite reasonable and doubtless would bring a greater measure of order to a subject which, at the present time, is confused beyond belief.

This book can be highly recommended to the physician with interests in general biology who wishes a quick and not overly complicated look at the structure of an immensely important group of living things.

A PRIMER FOR DIABETIC PATIENTS. An Outline of Treatment for Diabetes with Diet and Insulin including Directions and Charts for the use of Physicians in Planning Diet Prescriptions. By Russell M. Wilder, M.D., Professor and Chief of the Department of Medicine of the Mayo Foundation. Ninth Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia 1950. \$2.25.

The present edition, the ninth of this well-recognized manual for diabetic patients, follows in general the same scheme of treatment as previous volumes. In the preface the author points out that he has advocated more liberal diets than formerly and is less rigid in his requirements for the control of glycosuria.

The essentials of diabetic treatment are presented in a very simple direct manner, and at the end of each chapter there are a series of questions covering the subject matter of that chapter. Certainly anyone who reads the book and answers all the questions will have a sound knowledge of the proper care of the diabetic patient.

There are a few points in which this reviewer is inclined to be critical of Dr. Wilder's teachings. First, in a book of 200 pages, the all-important question of obesity is covered in one short paragraph. It would seem that in a book designed to impress diabetics a great deal more emphasis should be placed on the evils of obesity.

Secondly, Dr. Wilder still seems to feel that animal fats, particularly dairy products, are greatly preferable to carbohydrates in the diabetic diet, and his recommended diets would seem to contain more fat than most dietitians advocate at the present time.

Finally, in the recommendation for treatment of diabetic retinopathy he says that treatment is unsatisfactory but still suggests the use of rutin, a substance most investigators have found to be worthless.

Despite these criticisms it is still felt that this manual should be recommended as required reading to most diabetic patients.

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REGIONAL DERMATOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS—A Practical System of Dermatology for the Non-Specialist. By Ervin Epstein, M.D., Consultant in Dermatology and Syphilology to the Oakland Area Veterans Hospital and Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$6.00.

This book admirably fulfills the purpose for which it was written, an aid to dermatologic diagnosis for the general physician.

Many skin diseases follow a regional pattern of distribution. By carefully noting this distribution and by consulting a text such as this one on regional dermatology the general physician can often make an accurate diagnosis even though he has not been trained in the minutiae of dermatology. For example, he may not be expert in recognizing the burrow of scabies or in digging out the parasite, but if he notes that a pruritic eruption occurs on the interdigital webs, the flexors of the wrists, the tip of the elbow, the anterior axillary folds, around the umbilicus and on the buttocks and penis he may be positive that he is dealing with scabies.

The book is thoroughly up to date in respect to the newer diagnostic aids such as the "I.e." cell in lupus erythematosus, and the use of such new remedies as ACTH and cortisone.

Because of the necessity of considering each common dermatosis wherever it characteristically occurs there is considerable repetition and it is possible that the author could advantageously work out some system of cross-reference for future editions. There are some errors in typography and wording which he will undoubtedly correct.

Your reviewer is not aware of any other text which helps the general physician by such a practical approach to dermatology on a regional basis. Therefore the book is recommended as a supplement to standard dermatologic textbooks.